

two enemy combatants. He then exposed himself to enemy fire and was shot three times while dragging the wounded Marine to safety. As other Marines rescued Rodriguez and his colleague, he told them how to treat his wounded colleague. Later, while still seriously injured, Rodriguez assisted other medics in treating the wounded.

The Silver Star is the third-highest military decoration members of the armed forces can receive, and is only given to soldiers who perform "with marked distinction" and demonstrate gallantry in the face of considerable military adversity. The bravery Petty Officer Rodriguez displayed shows his exceptional dedication to the armed forces and to his fellow soldiers.

In reflection of the Silver Star he was recently awarded, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing and honoring the incredible actions, courage and selflessness of Connecticut native, Petty Officer Amilcar Rodriguez.

CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES IN CYPRUS

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the lives lost to date on Cyprus, and in recognition of the continuing conflict and civil rights abuses taking place on the island.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus in response to a Greek led coup, bringing to life a conflict that had long remained dormant. On that day, Turkish armed forces took control of the Northern portion of the island, and continue to occupy nearly 37 percent of Cyprus' territory today.

The continuing occupation has resulted in segregation and division of Greek and Turkish Cypriots, preventing the diverse and peaceful communities that once existed from returning, and inhibiting any communication or peaceful solution to the current crisis.

To date, more than 160,000 Turkish mainland settlers have emigrated to Cyprus, creating an imbalance in the population. In addition to that figure, the continued presence of 43,000 Turkish troops in Cyprus has contributed to tension between either ethnicity.

During the course of this conflict, more than 200,000 Greek Cypriots have been forced from their homes; 520 Greek Orthodox churches have been vandalized; 15,000 ecclesiastical items have been lost or stolen; nearly 60,000 Cypriot artifacts have been illegally transferred to other nations; and the property of displaced Greek-Cypriots, including homes and business, has been commandeered by mainland Turkish immigrants. These human rights violations, historical defacements, and cultural destruction of the Cypriot legacy must be stopped.

Mr. Speaker, this House and the United Nations have consistently passed resolutions calling for protection of the Cypriot people, restoration of property rights, and the return of stolen historic and religious artifacts. It is critical that a peaceful solution to this standoff is reached, so that all Cypriot people can return to their homes, and rebuild the vibrant, diverse and accepting communities that once existed there.

I urge all parties involved to join in negotiating a settlement that will prevent further devastation and restore peace and security to the island of Cyprus.

TRIBUTE TO THE WOUNDED WARRIORS AT WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER

HON. STEVE AUSTRIA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. AUSTRIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer a tribute poem to the brave men and women who were wounded while serving our country—our Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center:

100 Years . . .
Throughout all that heartache . . .
And all those most swollen tears . . .
And all of that most courageous courage, so
seen here . . .

From battlefields of honor bright!
From far across those distant shores, those
fights . . .

From deep blue oceans of yore . . .
And all of those heroes, up in those air wars
. . .

Who on land, air and sea . . .
Army, Navy, The Air Force, Coast Guard and
the United States Marine Corps . . .
Have all brought their Brothers and Sisters
In Arms, to Walter Reed . . .

To Heal!
To rebuild where none lies left!
With but only their fine hearts to bless . . .
As it was all here, that they so received . . .
But The Very Best, at Walter Reed!
Doctors and Nurses and Therapists, Soldiers
and Social Workers on this great list
. . .

Who have but faced the worst, who have but
passed that test!
Cheating death, with but only their most
courageous quests . . .

With years of training and devoting, to complete
their most noble of notions!
But to heal only our very best!
With only their skills and most courageous
hearts, no less . . .

Against All Odds, they would not rest . . .
This Battle, Their Valiant Quest, to win that
night so yes!

Day In and Day Out . . .
As their fine hearts to them, so shout . . .
Not to give up, nor give in . . .
For this is how miracles all begin!
All out here on the cutting edge . . .
As their fine hearts are but all so pledged
. . .

So pledged, but to heal!
To an oath so true, so real!
To Men and Women without arms and legs
. . .

Who without eyes and faces, as to them so
pray . . .
And yet, with the stress of each new day . . .
How stoically, all of them have made their
ways . . .

But, a thank you is all they ask . . .
As they've seen all of those Mothers crying
. . .

Out in the halls, with all that pain and
heartache . . . asking why then?
Surely, there is no denying . . .

Holding a young man's hand, until he lays
dying . . .

As their fine hearts and souls, so trying . . .
And yet, they go to work each day . . .
Asking not much more, then to win those
battles great . . .

To save our most precious heroes, all in their
light!

With the Gift of Life, they ask but for one
more night!

As each and all, are but quiet heroes in God's
eyes . . .

As it's in private that they now so cry!
As they go out all about their jobs each day
. . .

Attention, to themselves, they'll not pay
. . .

As it's to save precious life, for which they
pray!

And when that light once again begins to
shine . . .

They must now draw a new battle line!
To rebuild . . . to somehow instill . . .

With Hope, the very will . . . all in a fine
hero's heart to live!

And somehow to start all over again!
To ready them to rejoin that fight, or to try
to start a brand new life . . .

As it's clear, that they've done as much to
help win all those wars!

At Walter Reed, have come . . .
Such magnificent men and women, our
daughters and sons . . .

Who to death will not heed!
All because they so believe!

All those lives, and all those stories . . .
And all of those children who'll now know
the glory . . .

That glory of having a Mom and Dad, and
who one day may grow up to be . . .

An Angel, saving lives at Walter Reed!

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today our national debt is \$14,342,830,116,551.28.

On January 6, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$3,704,404,370,257.48 since then.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

HONORING THE BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Madison, located in Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 165th Anniversary.

Bethel was the first African-American Church in the Borough of Madison, New Jersey. Its beginnings date back to 1846 when informal gatherings first took place. After being deeded property in 1850, Bethel emerged 35 years later in 1885. Bethel Madison is a testimony of growth and constancy, thriving throughout the many decades. It has been witness to over a century and a half of American history. The church has seen its fair share of hardships, but it has managed to survive and thrive.

Today, Bethel's unassuming, traditional structure remains, but what takes place inside